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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO

OPNAVINST 5420.53B
OP-325E

07 OCT 1986

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 5420.53B

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: GENERAL PRECEPT FOR THE CONDUCT OF TRIALS AND MATERIAL
INSPECTIONS OF SHIPS AND SERVICE CRAFT

Ref: (a) U. S. Navy Regulations, Chapter 20
(b) U. S. Code, Title 10, Section 7304
(c) OPNAVINST 5420.70A
(d) OPNAVINST 4700.8G (NOTAL)
(e) OPNAVINST 4730.5K
(f) OPNAVINST 4730.7C (NOTAL)
(g) OPNAVINST 4770.5E (NOTAL)

1. Purpose. To provide a general precept for the conduct of trials and material inspections of ships and service craft.

2. Cancellation. OPNAV Instruction 5420.53A.

3. Background. References (a) and (b) establish the requirements for conducting trials and associated inspections of ships and service craft built by and for the U. S. Navy. Reference (c) establishes the organization and outlines the responsibilities of the Board of Inspection and Survey. References (d), (e), (f), and (g) provide the policy and guidance for the conduct of periodic ship, submarine, and service craft material inspections. (R)

4. Scope. This instruction is applicable to all Acceptance Trials, Final Contract Trials, Combined Trials, Underway Trials and Material Inspections conducted by the Board of Inspection and Survey.

5. Discussion. The Chief of Naval Operations does not issue procedural directives (precepts) for the conduct of individual trials and material inspections. Individual precepts will be issued only in those instances where special considerations are indicated or where trials or inspections are to be conducted by special trial boards. Individual precepts are issued for all surveys and special trials. (R)

6. General Precept. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) through (g), the Board of Inspection and Survey or one of its Permanent or Semipermanent Boards, will conduct trials and/or material inspections of ships and service craft, as appropriate. Trials and/or material inspections shall be accomplished at a time and place mutually satisfactory to the Board (R)

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- R) and the command presenting the ship or service craft for inspection. These examinations are performed in order to best determine the degree of fulfillment of the contract, the conformance with specifications or circular of requirements, readiness for naval service and/or capability of carrying out assigned missions and tasks.
- R) 7. Trial and Inspection Procedures. Procedures for conducting Trials and Inspections shall be specified by the President, Board of Inspection and Survey. Normally, Trials and Inspections will contain an underway period. The Board will identify material conditions which represent departures from the construction specifications and deficiencies that substantially reduce the ship or service craft's fitness for naval service and/or degrade its ability to perform its primary missions.
- A) 8. Reports. For new construction ships and service craft, based upon its findings the Board will recommend acceptance or final settlement of the contract. The Board will also make recommendations with regard to work which it considers necessary prior to acceptance or delivery. For all new construction trials and for inspections of ships in service, the Board will identify all deficiencies which detract from the ship or service craft's material readiness and fitness for service with the fleet.
- R) 9. Action. Findings and recommendations in the Board's report shall be given due consideration, and appropriate action shall be taken thereon by cognizant commands empowered to approve work and authorize the expenditure of funds within the limits prescribed in U.S. Navy Regulations.



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